

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A process for decreasing development of allergic asthma, the process comprising exposing a neonatal or immature mammal to irradiation-detoxified lipopolysaccharide (IR-LPS) derived from extracted bacterial endotoxin and operable to stimulate the Th 1 arm of the mammal's immune system, wherein exposure comprises at least weekly administration during maturation of the mammal via application of the IR-LPS to a living environment of the mammal.

2. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein the irradiation-detoxified lipopolysaccharide is detoxified by exposure of the endotoxin to irradiation at a level of from about 25 to about 150 kGy.

3. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the irradiation changes the structure of the endotoxin while maintaining its Th1 stimulatory effect in the resulting irradiation-detoxified lipopolysaccharide.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein an infant mammal is exposed.

6. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 5, wherein the exposure is achieved by administering a topical composition comprising the irradiation-detoxified lipopolysaccharide to the infant mammal.

7. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 6, wherein the topical composition further comprises a powder.

8. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 7, wherein the powder comprises talcum powder, corn starch, beet starch, rice flour, oatmeal, or a mixture thereof.

9. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 6, wherein the topical composition is in the form of a topical cream.

10. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein application ~~the exposure~~ is achieved by administering an aerosol spray composition comprising the irradiation-detoxified lipopolysaccharide.

11. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 5, wherein the exposure is achieved by contacting the infant mammal with a wipe impregnated with a composition comprising the irradiation-detoxified lipopolysaccharide.

12. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 5, wherein the exposure is achieved by contacting the infant mammal with a diaper impregnated with a composition comprising the irradiation-detoxified lipopolysaccharide.

13. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the mammal is a human and during maturation is between ~~of 1 month and to 2 years of age is exposed.~~

14. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 1, wherein a primate of 2 weeks to 12 months of age is exposed.

15. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 1, wherein a dog or cat of 1 week to 12 months of age is exposed.

16. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 6, wherein the irradiation-detoxified lipopolysaccharide is delivered in a concentration from 0.01 ug/g to 100 ug/g of topical composition.

17. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein exposure to the irradiation-detoxified lipopolysaccharide is ~~achieved~~ initiated shortly after birth and "during maturation" ~~is throughout~~ the maturing life cycle of the mammal.

18. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein administration ~~is exposure to the irradiation-detoxified lipopolysaccharide is achieved~~ on a daily basis ~~during growth of the mammal.~~

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 1, wherein the mammal is a farm animal.

21. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 20, wherein the farm animal is a cow, pig, goat, horse, chicken or turkey of 2 days to 12 months of age.

22. (Currently Amended) A process for decreasing development of allergic asthma in a mammal maturing in an overly sterile environment by restoring normal immune system development, the process comprising exposing a neonatal or immature mammal to irradiation-detoxified lipopolysaccharide derived from extracted *E. coli* bacteria endotoxin and operable to stimulate the Th 1 arm of the mammal's immune system, wherein exposure occurs via administration of the IR-LPS during maturation of the mammal.

23. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 22, wherein the exposure is achieved by administering an aerosol spray composition comprising the irradiation-detoxified lipopolysaccharide.

24. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim ~~23~~ 22, wherein the mammal is a human infant of 1 month to 2 years of age and exposure is exposed comprises at least weekly administration from 1 month to 2 years of age via application of the IR-LPS to a living space of the human infant.

25. (Currently Amended) A process for decreasing development of allergic asthma, the process comprising exposing a neonatal or immature human of up to about 2 years of age to irradiation-detoxified lipopolysaccharide derived from extracted bacterial endotoxin and operable to stimulate the Th 1 arm of the human's immune system while

reducing interleukin 1(IL-1) stimulation caused by the native form of the lipopolysaccharide derived from extracted bacterial endotoxin, wherein exposure ~~the exposing step~~ comprises administration on an at least weekly basis of administering an aerosol spray composition comprising ~~of the irradiation-detoxified lipopolysaccharide derived from extracted bacterial endotoxin~~ at a concentration of 5-15 µg/ml.